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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct. 14, 2003

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## **Senators Urge Bipartisan Solution on Budget** *Republicans Await Leadership from the Governor*

LANSING – The solution to Michigan’s budget deficit requires leadership from the governor and cooperation among lawmakers from both parties, members of the state Senate Republican Caucus said today.

“In March, we vowed to work with the governor to fix the budget, and we did just that,” said Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia. “Now, we will work together again to address Michigan’s fiscal situation as soon as possible so that we may get on to the other pressing issues facing the state.”

The Senate Fiscal Agency estimates the budget deficit at approximately \$918.7 million. The agency also noted that Michigan job losses have accounted for nearly a quarter – 23.5 percent – of all the nation’s job losses in the past two years.

The loss of so many jobs erodes the tax base.

The senators said they were not interested in balancing the budget in the short run by enacting policies that would make Michigan less attractive to employers in the long term.

“We can’t fix the state government’s problems on the backs of families and businesses,” Toy said.